Editor's Message

These really are interesting times we live in. Sometimes new and brilliant ideas come forward to change the world, and others it seems like history is repeating itself in a tragic loop. In the midst of all this turmoil, it's easy to feel helpless and small.

There are times when I'm pulling weeds or planting things that I stop and wonder if it's really making a difference to the people around me. And then I'm reminded of our informal motto, “Kindness Matters”. What if every flower we plant, or seed we share with a neighbor, is a small kindness? We are constantly presented with opportunities for kindness, and over time these small kindnesses add up to something great. Those of us in our small chapter may not have a big impact on world events, but we can certainly make a big impact in our community.

The best way we can change our world is to invest as much kindness in Polk County as we possibly can. In a world full of sadness and anger, bringing joy to our friends and neighbors counts for more than we know.

Kindness Matters,
Becky Norris,
Editor

Did You Know???

-Eggplant is a member of the thistle family.

-When a coffee seed is planted, it takes 5 years to produce consumable fruit.

-Oak trees do not have acorns until they are 50 years of age or older.

-85 percent of all plant life on Earth grows underneath the oceans.
Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm at housing authority by Linda Elliott-President. 19 members present.

Approval of minutes as printed in Mountain Dirt:
Corrections:

As Printed in Mountain Dirt -due in Friday before publish date of Thursday of next week.

Corrected -due in Tuesday before publish date of Thursday of next week.

Motion to approve minutes as written in Mountain Dirt with above corrections by Karen. Second by Patricia. Motion passed.

Visitors - David Anderson & Grazzie Warbritton from Mt. Ida MG’s. Came to give information about County 76 to membership. Also said MG’s could order signs, hats, and shirts with logo from Janet’s office.

Treasurer Report - No Questions. Accepted as printed in Mountain Dirt.

Table Caddy for MG Tables Vote needed to purchase 2 caddies of $218.95 + $75 freight estimate. These are greatly needed for plant sale. Motion to purchase by Wanda. Second by Betty. Motion passed.

Plant Sale Report - Patricia Roberts, Chairman
Patricia sent around Sign Up Sheets for various duties needing done prior to sale. Will begin on Monday April 27 before sale with cleanup of Education Building. She also asked for members to sign up for refreshments for meetings as lots of spaces empty.

Crystal Bridges Trip
Linda had Sign Up Sheet for drivers names and number of passengers in their car so can decide how many cars needed. MG will pay for fuel for drivers. Butterfly House at Botanical Gardens in area open so could be a side trip and got some free tickets from Gerald Klingaman.

Unfinished Business
Vote needed for approval by membership for proposal, brought by Board, to establish and Education Funding Committee. Vote taken by show of hands. Proposal approved. Some discussion about handling of expenditures of this Committee. This explained by Linda by saying that Sherry, as Chairman, would bring expenditure to Board for approval. If amount larger than $100 limit allowed to Board, then would be brought to membership for vote.
Annual Sanctioned Project Review
1. Courthouse +3 other sanctioned projects to be retained as Sanctioned Projects
2. Kim placed present sanctioned projects up on wall and each member had 3 dots to place on the 3 projects they wished to retain for Sanctioned Hours.
3. Sanctioned Projects to keep—Court House & Rose Garden, County Fair Depot, and Plant Sale. These constitute our Sanctioned projects for 2015.
4. Projects Not Chosen—Housing Authority, Mountain Dirt, Youth Gardening, Mena Star. These will be recorded as Unsanctioned or Other Hours for time worked on them. A reminder that half of necessary hours needed can be Other Hours.
5. This was needed as the above chosen projects require many hours and need to have these projects taken care of properly as they are our major areas to show what we as Master Gardeners do for Polk County and Mena.

Award Presentation
   Advanced MG pins were given to Mickey & Betty (Level 2) Jon Wanda & LaRayne (absent) Level 1. They were served chocolate cupcakes in wine glass and given a bottle of Coke to symbolize they were the REAL THING. Jon talked about Advanced MG program and will bring more detailed information at later date. She encouraged all eligible MG’s to consider going to these programs as they are excellent and you meet some terrific people.

Announcements
   April 18 at 6pm at Commercial Building at Fairgrounds Fish & Chicken Dinner given by Fair Board to show appreciation to all volunteers who have helped them. Please RSVP to Tina Lehman by April 13 at 2348590.

May meeting will be May 14 at Housing Authority at 5:30 pm due to trip to Crystal Bridges.

Linda asked for motion to adjourn meeting. Motion by Fran. Second by Betty. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.

Program
   Following adjournment, members were asked to tell their favorite plant or flower, something about it and how to propagate. Great response by membership.

Respectfully submitted by
Jon Anna Calleton Secretary
2016 Master Gardener Plant Sale Shines!

On Saturday, May 2\textsuperscript{nd}, the Polk County Master Gardeners saw months of work and planning bring hundreds of friends and neighbors to the fairgrounds to buy plants at the annual sale.

Dozens were waiting outside before the doors even opened, buying half the stock before 11am. The selection included trees, shrubs, herbs, edibles, annuals, perennials, shade plants, and ground covers. Most plants were donated from the gardens of Master Gardeners and their friends and neighbors, while some others had been specially purchased.

Azaleas and berry bushes were among the hottest items, with Japanese maples and hydrangeas following close behind. There were also door prizes and raffles for items such as a wicker outdoor bench, glazed planting urn, and a painted wooden garden sign. Also on display was a sign-up sheet for the fall 2015 new member training class, which gained a number of signatures. Hopefully, these interested participants will come back in the fall to join us!

The annual plant sale is both the PCMG's largest fundraiser and largest community outreach of the year. It takes hundreds of hours of planning, preparation, setup, and cleanup. But the rewards for both our organization and for Polk County are returned a thousand times over, as it brings people together in the spirit of fun and the love of nature. Now that this year's roaring success, we can look forward to next year's
event with great confidence.

Committee and Project Reports

Courthouse Garden Report

There has been no work done on the courthouse garden due to inclement weather.

-Linda Elliott

Youth Committee Report

Well, it's been a busy school year for the Youth Committee. Chaired by Sherry Humphries and Frances Smith, joined by Ann Glenn, Rae Grasso, Becky Fuller, Linda Elliott and Carol Shulz (various members at various times), this committee has worked at Holly Harshman School with the BEYOND program. It came as a surprise that the program ends May 1 due to the grant expiring. With spring just beginning (weather-wise), there is still much to be done in the outdoor classroom at HH. We will meet with the teachers to discuss our progression in getting the outdoor classroom back to working order for the students. The EAST Lab at Mena Middle School has 4 students working on scaled drawings of the garden, along with planting ideas. Our hope is to incorporate their drawing with different classes at HH being responsible for parts of the garden. PCMG YC will be advisors only.

The HH BEYOND students have been absolutely amazing. They are so eager to work on projects we have taken to them. The teachers we worked with are committed to continuing to work with the garden, so we are willing to help as well.

I will keep you posted on work days at the school. There will be only a few during May, then will start again in August when school is back in session.

-Sherry Humphries

Railroad Depot Report

Weather hampered workday at the depot but Joan and Rae braved the rain and weeded. Daffodil and tulip foliage will remain for six weeks then summer annuals will be planted.

-Betty Smith

A Prayer in Spring
By Robert Frost

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.
For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.
Mark Your Calendars!!!

Native Pollinator Workshop at the Kerr Center

Anne Stine from the Xerces Society and David Redhage from the Kerr Center will give a workshop June 6th from 9am to 3pm. Topics will include basic information on how pollinators work, as well as coverage of species native to specific ecoregions in Oklahoma. Attendees will learn the benefits of pollinators in the home garden, as well as how to draw them in. The cost is $50 for a single person, $25 for a spouse or child from the same family. This includes lunch, snacks, and two resource books. Deadline for registration is May 22nd, and you can do so online or print out the registration form and send it by snail mail to the Kerr Center.

Advanced Master Gardener Class: Roses

On June 22nd and 23rd, there will be an advanced training class at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR. Topics will include the history, classification, hybridization, and propagation of roses, as well as disease and pest management and presenting a show-quality cut rose. Participants will visit a garden each day, to see in person how these classic flowers can be used to beautify a landscape. Cost is $65, which includes materials and lunch on Tuesday. The deadline to register is May 29th, so don't wait to mail your registration and fee to: Faulkner County Extension Office Attn. Diane Howe, Advanced MGTraining, 801 Locust St. Conway, AR 72034

Submission Deadline for the 2016 MG Calendar

The official deadline for photo submissions for the 2016 MG Calendar is June 1st. Master Gardeners are limited to 4 photos per person, one for each season. Each submission must have the following in the file name: Name, county name (abbreviated), name of the plant, and the initials for the season (sp-spring, su-summer, fa-fall & wi-winter). An example would be janetcarsonPUhibiscussu.jpg - which corresponds to Janet Carson, Pulaski, hibiscus and summer. Please email pictures to Glenda Bell at gkbell08@att.net

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its
programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating.